

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.
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also, but also must be prepared to make forward movements when it is seen that our Powers are bent on cutting her out. A suitable reply to France's pretensions in Southern China would be the construction of a railway with British capital and of British material from Kowloon to Canton and thence, following for the most part the course of the West River, to the Chinese town of Lungchow, near the Tonkin boundary. There the British and French lines would meet and the two nations might either shake hands or fight as their inclination or national temperament might dictate.

Owing to the Easter Holidays there will be no issue of the Daily Press on Monday.

The Austrian Lloyd's steamer Trieste left Singapore for this port yesterday morning.

The N. P. steamer Olympia arrived at Tsingtau from Hongkong and Japan on the 6th inst.

The attention of owners is called to the fact that entries for the first gymnastics, on 16th inst., close to-day at 2 p.m.

The annual inspection of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps will be held on Thursday next, instead of on Wednesday next, owing to H. B. the General Officer Commanding being unable to attend on the 13th inst.

Two performances will be given by Cad Hertz at the Theatre Royal, this afternoon at 4.30 and this evening at 7.30. In the evening the new programme will be presented, including the Nephthys and also the new pictures in the cinematograph, including the Greek-Turkish War, the Charge on the Trenches, and the Prince of Wales Derby, and many others. On Monday night, a special holiday programme is promised.

In his report for 1897 Mr. J. R. Crook, Sanitary Commissioner, has pointed out that the water supply in Hongkong is not sufficient for the needs of the population. He has recommended that the water supply should be increased by the construction of a new reservoir at the foot of the mountain, and that the water should be distributed by a system of pipes and tanks. He has also recommended that the water should be purified by a system of filtration and chlorination.

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China has given Great Britain a guarantee against the alienation of any part of the Yangtze Valley, and she is said now to have given a similar guarantee to France with respect to the three southern provinces. Does this guarantee imply a corresponding obligation on the other side to assist China to resist any aggression by other Powers in the region specified? Another question that presents itself is whether the leasing of a port for a term of years would be considered an alienation within the meaning of the guarantee? China is nominally supposed to have surrendered none of her sovereign rights in respect of Kiaochoan, Port Arthur, or Weihaiwei, and similarly she might lease other ports without a surrender of her sovereign rights and therefore without alienation, unless the Powers to whom guarantees against alienation have been given choose to place a stricter interpretation on the term and are prepared to support that interpretation against all comers. The next few years, we fear, are likely to see a crop of controversies in China almost as large and as vexed as that which has arisen between various rival Powers in Africa. Great Britain will no doubt be able to hold her own in the conflict of inter-

RUHRT'S TELEGRAMS.

[SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS"]

SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

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THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Managers, Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, have received the following report from their mining manager:

11th March, 1898.

SIR JOHN GARRINGTON ON "VOLUNTEERING."

On Wednesday afternoon Sir John Garrington, C.M.G., delivered a lecture in the City Hall before the members of the Hongkong Old Volunteer Society, on "Volunteering."

His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. Mr. C. J. B. who was accompanied by Mrs. Black, occupied the chair, and briefly introduced the lecturer.

Sir John Garrington, after some preliminary observations, said he proposed to deal with the subject under two heads, the first and more important being volunteering in Great Britain, and the second and less important, although no doubt possessing some interest to them, volunteering in Hongkong. First of all he would give a short history of the volunteer movement in Great Britain. As they knew, volunteering did not exist as an institution in England until 1859.

It was not easy to say when the idea of a volunteer force for national defence first came into existence, but he thought it might be traced to the various parts of the country in the reign of Henry VIII., who granted a charter in 1557 to the "Fraternity or guild of Saint George, knights and esquires of the county of Devon, for the purpose of raising a company of archers, long-bows, cross-bows, and hand-gauntlets."

That was the origin of the "Antient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts." This company was a detachment of this company came to England and met with a very cordial reception, being received at Windsor Castle by Her Majesty. However, the company did not last long, and the idea of volunteering was not revived until 1779. In that year there was a threatened invasion from France and Spain. The invasion was successfully repulsed, but the idea of volunteering was not revived until 1779.

In his report for 1897 Mr. J. R. Crook, Sanitary Commissioner, has pointed out that the water supply in Hongkong is not sufficient for the needs of the population. He has recommended that the water supply should be increased by the construction of a new reservoir at the foot of the mountain, and that the water should be distributed by a system of pipes and tanks. He has also recommended that the water should be purified by a system of filtration and chlorination.

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hear that the generosity of the corps was not yet exhausted, for on that occasion they presented to Mr. Tanner, the military instructor, a gold watch chain. In March, 1894, there was a review in Happy Valley, and the force which turned out on that occasion consisted of 37 officers, non-commissioned officers and men, and six guns. The Governor was there, and in fact all the members of the corps were present. It was then that the Captain Superintendent of Police headed the procession with four mounted police (Laughter). This was the way the press of the day reported the review. The review was a success, and the corps was highly praised for their discipline and drill.

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THE VETERINARY SURGEON'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The following is the report of Mr. C. V. Leake, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, for 1897.

IMPORTATION OF LIVE STOCK.

During the year no cases of contagious disease amongst animals were noticed, until the month of November, when a number of horses and mules imported from the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States were found to be affected with a disease known as "strangles."

As the disease appeared in the different sheds of the Government Veterinary Hospital, and as the animals were imported from the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, it was concluded that the disease had been introduced from those places.

The disease was not dangerous to man, but it was dangerous to the animals, and it was necessary to take measures to prevent its spread. The animals were isolated, and the sheds were disinfected. The disease was cured in all cases, and no further cases were noticed.

Under the present system all cattle which are imported for slaughter are, upon being landed, driven direct to the slaughterhouse, and are not allowed to be in the streets or in the public places. This system is very satisfactory, and it is necessary to maintain it.

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CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG KONG SAN TO."] Heavy rain fell on the 24th inst. in the district of Szechuan and Pe-tung, lasting about three hours. As there is still no rain in Canton, the Viceroy and Governor, who have been praying for it daily in the temple of the gods of the sea, have appointed the 14th inst. to go to the temple in Polo village, about forty li from Whampoa, to hold a service there.

Rice being so dear in Canton, the Government distributed three hundred tons of rice to each poor person on the 1st inst. The rice was distributed through the times, who, being the most hard-hearted of fellows, seized this opportunity as their last chance of squeezing. They would not allow the poor people to have the rice, but they paid them some money or a kind of receipt, which they then used to buy rice elsewhere.

Some time ago a petition to the Viceroy asking to be allowed to mine for coal in the district of Szechuan and Pe-tung, which has been distributed since the arrival of the late Viceroy, Mr. Chen Chang. The Government has taken the petition into consideration.

The branch office of the Chinese Imperial Bank under the direction of Sheng Tsung-tai was opened on the 2nd inst. The office is established in Hui Fung Street.

On the 27th inst. at 1 p.m. over one hundred robbers made an attack on a pawnshop in the Yungchow village. When they arrived, they ordered the neighbouring shopkeepers to close their doors and to hand over their valuables. The robbers then divided themselves into two parties, one of which broke into the pawnshop to search for valuables, while the other party guarded the entrance.

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